

Appln. No. 10/535,270

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Response to Official Action dated February 19, 2010

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for producing inositol from plant materials comprising the steps of:

- (a) treating an aqueous slurry of plant material containing a mixture of neutral sugars, with a phytase enzyme to partially hydrolyze at least one of phytate, phytic acid and phytin to inositol phosphates that are negatively charged, under conditions which do not promote full hydrolysis to inositol[.];
- (b) separating said slurry into a water soluble fraction and a water-insoluble fraction[.];
- (c) separating said water soluble fraction into a first ionic fraction which contains anionic components comprising inositol phosphates and a first other fraction which contains neutral fractions containing said mixture of neutral sugars;
- (d) hydrolysing the inositol phosphates in said first ionic fraction; and
- (e) separating a hydrolyzed first ionic fraction into a second ionic fraction and a second neutral fraction which contains inositol.

2. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein said phytase enzyme in step (a) does not include acid phosphatase.